

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 5

DATE 2-23-06

BILL NO. 516

MARC RACICOT
GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0801

April 30, 1998

Gary Marbut, President
Montana Shooting Sports Association
P.O. Box 4924
Missoula MT 59801

Dear Gary:

I am writing to express my support for the Montana Shooting Sports Association's (MSSA) "Be Safe" program for schools.

MSSA has been an active proponent of responsible gun ownership in Montana for many years and I am glad to support your most recent effort among others to teach children the importance of gun safety. Education about gun safety is important to most Montanans and the "Be Safe" program can play an integral role in providing children with the knowledge they need to treat firearms in a safe and responsible manner.

I extend my best wishes for the success of this program and thank you for your organization's willingness to help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marc Racicot".

MARC RACICOT
Governor



February 19, 1998

Gary S. Marbut
Montana Shooting Sports Association
P.O. Box 4924
Missoula MT 59806


Dear Gary:

I am delighted to have received the fax today concerning gun safety to be taught by your organization in the elementary schools. This is long over due and, in fact, we'd struggled with how we might have been able to accomplish it. Never ending matter of funding and personnel precluded it.

Congratulations on your efforts. While we as citizens will probably never truly know the positive good that will come of it, just the belief it will no doubt somewhere prevent a tragedy is great solace.

Thanks MSSA for your proactive stance in this most critical matter.

Sincerely,


Doug Chase
DC/mkt



— Montana Office of Public Instruction —

Linda McCulloch
State Superintendent

TO: Shooting Sport Advocates and Educators
FROM: Linda McCulloch, Superintendent *LMC*
RE: Support for Gun Safety and the Montana "Be Safe" Program
DATE: March 7, 2003

Like all of the West, firearms played an important role in Montana's history and is an important part of our contemporary life. Lewis and Clark depended on guns for food and safety. Indeed, their expedition would have probably failed without firearms. Montana is proud of its Olympic and World shooting champions. Moreover, today, Montana is one of the premier sport hunting areas in the world.

Many Montanans own guns for hunting, sport shooting and collecting. It is not unusual for our children to see guns in vehicles, stores, or in the homes of neighbors or relatives. Unfortunately, sometimes kids have access to guns that are not properly secured. For this reason, many people have supported gun safety education for our children. I join in that effort.

The 1997 Montana Legislature passed the Montana Gun-Free Schools Act and the 1999 Montana Legislature passed a resolution supporting gun safety education in our elementary schools. The Montana Shooting Sports Association (MSSA) responded to this call for gun safety by developing the "Be Safe" program.

The "Be Safe" program is easy to use, is free to schools and was developed by Montanans for Montanans. The Office of Public Instruction supports gun safety programs in Montana schools, and provides schools with information on the "Be Safe" program.

We appreciate the safety efforts of the MSSA and support the expanded delivery of the "Be Safe" program to Montana schools.



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

PO Box 202501
HELENA MT 59620-2501
(406) 444-3095

Nancy Keenan
Superintendent

March 20, 1998

Gary Marbut
Montana Shooting Sports Association
Missoula, Montana

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE BE SAFE PROGRAM

Dear Gary:

The Montana Shooting Sports Association (MSSA) has a long history of supporting shooting sports and gun safety in Montana's schools. The association is made up of Montanans who are interested in the shooting sports, are sportsmen and women, and who are interested in gun safety. They come from a variety of backgrounds, but share the common interest of firearms. They also share the same interest around the ethical and safe use of firearms... especially by our kids.

The members of the association know that the majority of Montanans own firearms; that firearms are commonly seen in vehicles and in homes. They also know, for the most part, that these firearms are stored and maintained in a safe manner (i.e. locked).

However, the MSSA also knows that gun safety and the proper use of guns in Montana is a concern as it is elsewhere. They know that there have been incidents where guns have been improperly used by young children. To that end, they have developed a program specifically designed to meet the needs of Montana's children: **Be Safe**. This program is easy to use, inexpensive and involves parents. It also dovetails nicely with other safety programs that schools may be using.

Gun safety is a concern shared by this office. I support the efforts made by schools and the efforts to make gun safety available to teachers and students through the **Be Safe** program.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Spencer Sartorius".

Spencer Sartorius

Administrator, Health Enhancement and Safety Division

"It is our mission to advocate, communicate, educate and be accountable to those we serve."

"Be Safe" Gun Safety Program

Teacher's Name & Grade

Kathleen Ormesher ^{1st} School Hellgate Elem.

Once again, I'd like to thank you all for the time you gave me in your class, to read about and discuss gun safety with your children.

As you know, the Montana Shooting Sports Association and the Western Montana Fish and Game Association is sponsoring this program free to the 1st - 3rd grade school children in and around Missoula. We could use your candid help in critiquing this pilot program. If you could take a couple minutes to fill out this form, we would appreciate it a lot. Your answers, comments and suggestions will enable us to do a better job presenting this program and help us write better informational booklets in the future and also in developing a future, upper grade-level program.

Please circle the number of your choice. When done, please return your letter in the envelope provided

A) The "Be Safe" presentation on Gun Safety was; 1) too long 2) too short 3) about the right length of time *

B) I think it was; 1) wise 2) unwise to take valuable class time to cover this topic.

C) The vocabulary used to present this class was; 1) too difficult 2) too simple 3) understandable to my class 4) other

D) Other Gun Safety Classes have been taught to my class this year -

1) no

2) yes they were (what, when, by whom?)

E) The discussion questions and comments by the presenter, were; 1) too many 2) too few 3) off the topic

4) important to the content

5) other

F) The students in my class reacted to this presentation: 1) didn't really get it

3) seemed to take it seriously 4) other

2) wanted to discuss it later

G) How would you rate the value of this program, on a scale of 1-10, 10 being high and 1 being low 10.

H) My general response to this program is:

it was very worthwhile and well presented.

I) I think this presentation could be improved by:

* more student interaction It is difficult for 1st graders to sit and listen w/o interaction for 20 minutes. May role play situation after about 10 min.

J) I would like to see this presentation continued in the schools because;

so many people in Montana have guns in their homes. Safety should be taught in case it is not taught in the home.

Thanks again for your time and help.

Emily Lauchnor

"Be Safe" Gun Safety Program - sponsored by;
Western Montana Fish and Game Association
and Montana Shooting Sports Association,
P.O.Box 4924, Missoula, Montana 59806